

REMARKS

The Examiner's final Office Action of 9/20/2006 has been reviewed. Note is taken that Claim 1 and 10 have been allowed.

The Examiner's objection to the drawings is noted. In response thereto, submitted herewith for the Examiner's approval is a revised Fig. 1 showing indicia as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Curtis (U.S. Patent 5,509,572). This rejection is traversed.

The Applicant has previously amended independent Claim 2 to include the limitations of "a pair of trolley rails comprising trolley rail locations" and "an indicia reader" and "indicia being attached to a garment and indicia being associated with specific trolley rail locations with the indicia being readable by the indicia reader." Curtis teaches an indicia attached to a rail and only associated with a garment. The present system allows the system to move a garment by recording the indicia attached to the garment and re-assigning a new location indicia to that garment. There is no claimed indicia on rail locations as in Curtis. This is an improvement of, and a departure from, the teachings of the Curtis patent.

Claims 3, 5 and 6 are each dependent upon independent Claim 2. The amendment to Claim 2 adds the indicia attached to

the garment, a limitation not taught by Curtis. Such limitation also applies to Claims 3, 5 and 6.

The Examiner had rejected Claims 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Curtis (5,509,572) in view of Neef et al. (5,927,472). This rejection is also traversed.

The Applicant has previously amended Claim 2, the independent claim upon which Claims 4 and 8 are dependent, to include the limitation of having an indicia attached to a garment. This use of indicia is not taught by either Curtis, who teaches indicia associated with a hanger slot, or Neef, who teaches indicia associated with a hanger. The use of indicia attached to a garment is a departure from, and an improvement over the prior art. The use of an indicia attached to a garment provides that if the garment is dropped from the hanger, or is being processed, there is always a way to identify an owner. In the prior art, as exemplified by Curtis, with only the hanger slot being identified, any movement of the hanger to another location would cause the system to fail. So to with Neef, if the garment is removed, or is dropped, from the hanger, the identity of the owner is lost, whereas with an indicia attached to the garment, neither of these system failures occur because the owner of the garment is always identifiable.

In addition to the indicia attached to the garment, Claims 4 and 8 bring out the different mechanisms for driving the system.

Such mechanisms include stepper motors and pneumatic motors and hydraulic motors. Although various types of motors are interchangeable in certain situations, the use of one of these three types in the claimed combination for dry cleaning establishments provides further distinction between applicant's invention and the prior art.

In practice, the present application allows a user of the system to place garments within the system. The user may then perform various operations such as cleaning and pressing on the garments. When any garment is placed back on the conveyor the garment indicia is reconciled with the location thus allowing the garment to be placed anywhere in the system and still be easily located. This is a departure and an unobvious improvement over the prior art. With this system, garment inventory may be moved from one location to another, with the identification and the location continually stored and updated to accommodate the movement. This is not possible with any of the devices of the prior art whether taken alone or in combination.

In the Examiner's final rejection, it is stated that in the prior art reference to Curtis, the "trolley rails comprise barcodes for identifying specific trolley rail locations. Curtis '572 associates a package scanned barcode with the specific storage location on the rails (column 7, second full paragraph).

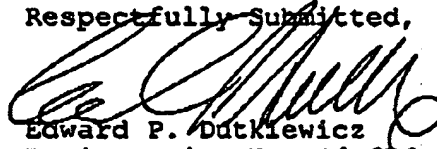
Hence, it is obvious that each of Curtis '572 hanging garments includes identifiable indicia." This is a correct interpretation of Curtis but also clearly identifies that the barcode used for identifying locations is on the rails and cannot be correlated with the garment at time when garments are repositioned on the rails. This defect in the prior art is overcome by the present invention featuring the specifically claimed "indicia being attached to a garment." There simply is no indicia being attached to a garment in the prior art as exemplified by Curtis. This claimed feature renders independent Claim 2 and its dependent claims free of the art and patentable thereover.

It would appear that the Examiner has merely gleaned miscellaneous features in the prior art and has attempted to combine them without a teaching for their combination. The only teaching is in applicant's disclosure which, by definition, is not prior art. But even if there were a teaching for the combination, the resulting structure would still fail to anticipate applicant's invention for the reasons set forth herein above.

It is deemed that the amendments herein overcome all grounds of objection and rejection. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner is not of the opinion that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance, he is requested that the amendment be entered for purposes of appeal.

Respectfully Submitted,



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